GO GLOBAL

RADIO OPERATORS ASSIST AIRCREWS

AS AN AIR FORCE aircraft approaches Yokota Air Base, Japan, the pilot sets his radio to a specified frequency and says, "Main Sail, Main Sail" — the call sign for any global radio station.

Within seconds, the pilot hears, "This is the Yokota operator." Many people think they're talking with someone at the location they contacted on the radio, but in reality, the operator sits in front of a console in a building at Andrews AFB, Md.

These operators are with the 789th Communications Squadron at the Centralized Network Control Station, or CNCS, which has 14 high-frequency ground stations located around the world. The transmitter and receiver for each station, however, is controlled from the CNCS.

The CNCS also provides phone-patch and message-relay services, ship-to-shore communications and emergency assistance for Department of Defense users; and high-frequency communications for the president, vice president, cabinet members and other senior officials while aboard special air mission aircraft. Phone patches are a connection between a telephone line and another communications device, such as a radio. Additionally, Spanish-speaking radio operators handle radio requests from pilots and other aircrew members from Central and South American countries. — *Margo Turner, 89th AW PA*

The 789th CS: Providing aircrew connections

DEPLOYMENT READINESS

Senior Airman Christina Ponte / 355th CS

Airmen from the 355th Communications Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., take action during an operational readiness exercise used to ensure that Airmen are ready to deploy. Here, the alarm sounds red, and they must don the full gas mask and chem/bio warfare gear.

CONFERENCE NOTES

Collaboration, integration theme for AIA Communications Conference

THE AIR FORCE OF tomorrow will be smaller but will have significantly more capability, according to briefers at the Air Intelligence Agency's "SC" conference held at Lackland AFB, Texas, in April.

Briefers said there will be 25 percent fewer fighter aircraft and a 40,000 personnel reduction across the Air Force during the next four years, and that this will leave significant challenges for the communications and information fields. Col. David Vega, AIA director of Communications and Information, said that technology will make the change to a smaller force manageable.

During the conference, he issued a challenge to basically shape technology "to improve our lives, work surroundings, and social environment."

He said people still have made little use of technology in their daily lives. Many things are still the same. For instance, he observed that the in/out processing system of the military service has not greatly changed in the past 20 years.

Col. David Vega

"You still get the same manila envelope, the same instructions and are made to feel that you are separating from the military service rather than just simply moving. The technology is here today to make many more wondrous things happen in our lives.

"How would you like when leaving on a PCS to just simply leave with the swipe of a card; and again, as you arrive at your new destination, simply swipe that same card and everyone on the base would know you are there?" He said society is full of bright people who must expand their vision rather than wait for technological enhancements to happen to them. — *AIA SC*

WARTIME TASKS

AF SETS UP INSTALLATION CONTROL CENTER CONCEPT

WHEN A CRISIS ARISES ON base, wing leadership and representatives from various support agencies will often huddle together in the wing command post. These nerve centers direct emergency services, assess situations, and come up with solutions during crisis actions.

But the days of the traditional Command Post, Survival Recovery Center, Wing Operations Centers, and battle staffs are coming to an end as bases around the world transition to the new Installation Control Center concept.

Championed by members of the 705th Training Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla., the ICC is a standardized alignment of functions, processes, and positions that will be familiar to Airmen deployed to forward operating locations as the ICC mirrors the "warfighting Air Force."

"The ICC is more than just a physical location on an installation," said Lt. Col. Calvin Romrell, the ICC project officer at the 705th TRS. "The ICC is the set of processes and information flow that connect all installation activities. This is how our bases are structured in an expeditionary environment, so it only makes sense to use these same setups at our home stations."

Like traditional command posts, the ICC will act as the central command and control node for all Air Force installations, fixed and expeditionary, regardless of mission or major command.

Unlike traditional Command Posts, the ICC is a standardized alignment of functions, not necessarily in the same facility. Bases can choose to implement the ICC structure immediately at the discretion of the installation commander and parent command.

"The ICC provides the installation commander a single, consolidated command and control center to monitor and execute the installation's missions — whether it's supporting a tenant unit, bed-down, sustainment, redeployment or joint environments — the ICC has the flexibility to adapt and react decisively," he said.

Another key benefit of the ICC is the ability to support the National Incident Management System and the Emergency Management Program.

Under the ICC concept, an Emergency Operations Center will replace the Survival Recovery Center that normally serves to get bases operational after a disaster.

So far, the ICC concept is proving successful as a "key enabler" during operations. Dyess AFB, Texas, tested the ICC concept during its Operational Readiness Inspection in March. The ICC was one of the main reasons cited for the wing re-

KUDOS

COMM TEAM IN IRAQ CONNECTS THE WORLD ONE WIRE AT A TIME

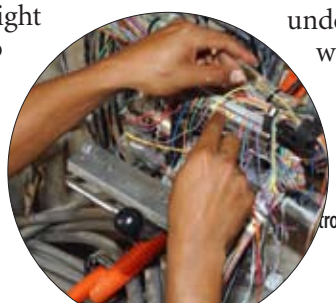
They maintain miles of cable and wire so everyone can communicate here and to the world. The job has them working above and below ground, while fighting all the elements of being in a desert climate.

This responsibility lies with the 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron's base information infrastructure shop, deployed to Ali Base, Iraq.

Working with telephones and copper, fiber-optic and local-area-network cables for the Air Force portion of Ali Base means this nine-person shop stays busy.

The shop is a mix of maintenance technicians who work with telephones, cable, computer network switching, cryptography and computer communications. Having different job specialties is good but also meant more work at the beginning of their rotation during team development.

"A lot of our workcenter are not doing the job they were trained to do," said Tech. Sgt. Dan Dvorak, NCO in charge of the shop. "We had to do a lot of training right off the bat to get things running smoothly."



The shop has tackled several major projects, and one involved moving the main distribution frame which services all base telephone, local area network and special circuits from one building to a tactical shelter. The new shelter is a dust-free environment to improve the life of the fiber and copper cables.

"This entailed moving 350 strands of fiber and 3,500 pairs of copper cables," Sergeant Dvorak said, who is deployed here from Tinker AFB, Okla. "(Moving the main distribution frame) has never been done before and is a major undertaking for our workcenter.

"It took us 11 days with five people to move the 350 strands of fiber," Sergeant Dvorak said. "The copper is going on right now. It (took) four people three days to splice 500 pairs of copper. The 3,500 pairs of copper have to be spliced twice to install the section of cable we need to reach the new manholes."

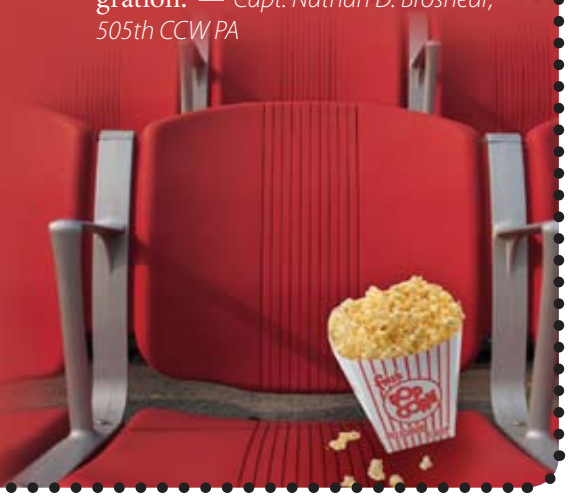
One of the limiting factors they have had to overcome was the shape of manholes. Many of them were collapsed so all of the wiring had to be moved to new manholes. Others were just crowded with cables.

Another undertaking entailed moving approximately 70 telephones and 100 secure and unsecure network connections for a half dozen offices. — *Master Sgt. Jon Hanson, 407th AEG PA*

trol, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance

ceiving the first "outstanding" rating in 167 inspections Air Force-wide.

The concept has also matured through experimentation in fixed and expeditionary environments. During Joint Expeditionary Force Experiments and the Air Expeditionary Force Battlelab Integrated Flight Operations Initiative in 2002 the ICC concept received overwhelmingly positive reviews. Combat and mobility operations in deployed locations have also validated the strength of the new command and control integration. — *Capt. Nathan D. Broshear, 505th CCW PA*



SUMMER READING

A few suggestions from the Air Force Chief of Staff

A History of the American People – Paul Johnson **1776** – David McCullough **Gen. George Washington: A Military Life** – Edward G. Lengel **Victory at Yorktown: The Campaign that Won the Revolution** – Richard M. Ketchum **Billy Mitchell: Crusader for Air Power** – Alfred F. Hurley **A Question of Loyalty: Gen Billy Mitchell and the Court-Martial that Gripped the Nation** – Douglas Waller **Winged Defense: The Development and Possibilities of Modern Air Power Economic and Military** – William Mitchell

— www.af.mil/library/csafreading/index.asp

JOINT OPERATIONS

Army photo by Kristy Davies

Army Staff Sgt. Andre Milhouse, of the 551st Signal Battalion, communicates with a C-130 Hercules crew from the 700th Airlift Squadron out of Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., as airdropped cargo lands on target. The joint Air Force and Army training is the first of its kind at Fort Gordon, Ga., and will be added to the final capstone event of Army communications technical training at Fort Gordon. This is also another step in Defense Department's effort to have everyone's communications equipment able to talk to each other.

INTEL, RECON

GLOBAL HAWK AIMS HIGH

Reaching a breakthrough point in April, the Global Hawk team in Southwest Asia has maximized the aircraft's sorties, collecting more than 96 percent of the target area — nearly 5,000 images of enemy locations, resources and personnel. In 2003, a test-model Global Hawk was sent to the theater. Officials expected it to fly for 500 hours. Instead, the aircraft flew close to 5,000. With its multiple sensors and ability to gather vast amounts of imagery, the Global Hawk brings a welcome dimension to intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or ISR, operations. "Air power comes in all different flavors, and ISR is the flavor that we offer (with the) Global Hawk," said an official. — *AFPN*